Title: Introducing the MISR Level 2 Near Real-Time Aerosol Product
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MS No.: amt-2021-71
MS type: Research article
Iteration: Minor Revision

Dear Editor,

We are writing to you to kindly ask you to reconsider your recent decision regarding the need for further revisions to our manuscript. The effort involved would be nontrivial. In the review process we addressed in great detail comments and suggestions from the first two reviewers, which resulted in considerable improvements to the manuscript, with the result that these reviewers were fully satisfied with our efforts.

The third reviewer assessed the revised manuscript and while the overall tone of the review was generally positive, he did suggest revisions aimed at addressing specific interests of the data assimilation community. Although we feel that many of the additional analyses requested by the third reviewer exceed the scope of this paper and should instead be addressed in a separate manuscript, we did address his questions regarding differences in retrieval yields and particle properties. Our investigations showed very little difference between the NRT and the standard product with respect to retrieval yields, AODs, and particle properties.

The main goal of the submitted manuscript is to introduce the new NRT aerosol product to the community. We describe important differences and assess performance of the NRT product with respect to the standard product. The primarily statistical approach to our analyses is well aligned with its introductory purpose. When necessary, we show specific examples highlighting certain implications of the NRT processing (Figure 6). However, it is beyond the scope of this paper to analyze in detail specific scenes, orbits, or days.

In light of the fact that the MISR project is releasing the NRT product to the public, we consider timely publication of this introductory paper an important source of information for potential users. As with any satellite remote sensing product, feedback from the community regarding strengths and limitations is essential and the primary goal of this paper is to engage the community in such assessments. Different users will have different perspectives and needs. Consequently, we recommend sharing the revised manuscript with the third reviewer and ascertaining whether the compromise reflected in this revision is acceptable to him so that the paper can move forward.

Kind regards,

   Marcin Witek and co-authors